

Since taking office in 2007, Governor Mike Beebe has made improving education, expanding Arkansas's economy and cutting taxes his top priorities. Under Beebe's leadership, Arkansas was one of only four states to enter the past two fiscal years without a projected budget shortfall. Arkansas has avoided the massive cuts in services and tax increases suffered by other states, while achieving more than \$1.2 billion in tax relief during the Beebe administration.

Governor Beebe's education policies and initiatives have garnered nationwide attention, and Arkansas now ranks fifth in overall K-12 education. To build a better-trained workforce, Governor Beebe has worked to match colleges and universities with local businesses and has led changes in the way schools teach math, science, engineering and technology. All of these efforts have made Arkansas an attractive place for business investment, and the State was recently named the second-easiest place in America to start a small business.

Born in Amagon, Arkansas, in 1946, the Governor earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Arkansas State University in 1968, and completed law school at the University of Arkansas in 1972, while serving in the U.S. Army Reserve.

The parents of three adult children, Governor Beebe and his wife, Ginger, have worked together to improve children's health and literacy throughout the State and have been recognized for their leadership in fighting childhood hunger.